

What is claimed is:

1 1. A method of establishing a call session over a packet-based network,
2 comprising:
3 receiving, in a first switch, a call request over the packet-based network
4 from a first terminal associated with a logical identifier, the call request targeting a
5 second terminal coupled to a second switch;
6 storing, in the first switch, information relating to features of the first
7 terminal, the information associated with the logical identifier;
8 sending, from the first switch, a request over a packet-based trunk to the
9 second switch in response to the call request; and
10 sending, from the first switch to the first terminal, a media connection
11 request containing a network address of the second terminal to enable the first terminal to
12 establish a media path with the second terminal over the packet-based network.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the call request comprises
2 receiving an off-hook indication and a dialed number.

1 3. The method of claim 2, wherein receiving the call request comprises
2 receiving a network address of the first terminal.

1 4. The method of claim 3, further comprising determining the logical
2 identifier based on the network address.

1 5. The method of claim 2, wherein the network address comprises an Internet
2 Protocol address.

1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the logical identifier comprises a virtual
2 terminal number.

1 7. The method of claim 1, further comprising accessing the information in
2 response to the call request to perform a predetermined action.

1 8. The method of claim 7, wherein receiving the call request comprises
2 receiving an indication of activation of a button on the first terminal.

1 9. The method of claim 8, wherein accessing the information comprises
2 accessing the information to determine an action to perform in response to the activation
3 of the button.

1 10. The method of claim 1, wherein storing the information comprises storing
2 the information in a profile associated with the logical identifier.

1 11. The method of claim 10, further comprising storing other profiles of other
2 terminals associated with other logical identifiers.

1 12. The method of claim 1, wherein storing the information comprises storing
2 configuration information relating to one or more buttons of the first terminal.

1 13. The method of claim 1, further comprising the second switch sending a
2 second media connection request to the second terminal, the second media connection
3 request containing a network address of the first terminal to enable the second terminal to
4 establish a media path with the first terminal over the packet-based network

1 14. A switch system for establishing calls over a packet-based network,
 2 comprising:
 3 an interface adapted to communicate over the packet-based network;
 4 a controller communicatively coupled to the interface and adapted to
 5 receive a call request from a first terminal, the first terminal associated with a logical
 6 identifier, the call request targeting a second terminal that is coupled to a second switch
 7 system,
 8 the controller adapted to further send signaling to the second switch
 9 system over a packet-based trunk provided over the packet-based network; and
 10 a storage unit containing information relating to features of the first
 11 terminal, the information associated with the logical identifier of the first terminal.

1 15. The system of claim 14, wherein the logical identifier comprises a virtual
 2 terminal number.

1 16. The system of claim 15, wherein the storage unit further comprises a table
 2 mapping the virtual terminal number to a network address.

1 17. The system of claim 16, wherein the network address comprises an
 2 Internet Protocol address.

1 18. The system of claim 16, wherein the table comprises plural virtual
 2 terminal numbers mapped to corresponding plural network addresses.

1 19. The system of claim 14, wherein the storage unit contains a profile
 2 associated with the logical identifier of the first terminal, the profile containing the
 3 information relating to features.

1 20. The system of claim 19, wherein the storage unit contains at least another
 2 profile associated with at least another logical identifier of another terminal.

1 21. The system of claim 14, wherein the signaling between the switch systems
2 comprise signaling to determine if the second terminal is a network terminal capable of
3 communicating over the packet-based terminal.

1 22. An article comprising at least one storage medium containing instructions
2 that when executed cause a first switch to:
3 receive a request over a packet-based network from a first terminal, the
4 terminal associated with a logical identifier;
5 access a profile associated with the logical identifier; and
6 use information in the profile to send signaling to a second switch to
7 establish a call session with a second terminal.

1 23. A data signal embodied in a carrier wave and comprising instructions that
2 when executed cause a first switch to:
3 receive a call request over the packet-based network from a first terminal
4 associated with a logical identifier, the call request targeting a second terminal coupled to
5 a second switch;
6 store information relating to features of the first terminal, the information
7 associated with the logical identifier;
8 send a request over a packet-based trunk to the second switch in response
9 to the call request; and
10 send a media connection request to the first terminal containing a network
11 address of the second terminal to enable the first terminal to establish a media path with
12 the second terminal over the packet-based network.